

"Castlewood" (Residence)  
Four miles southeast of Richmond,  
Madison County, Kentucky

HABS No. 20-17

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 20  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
G. M. Grimes, District Officer  
304 Martin Brown Building  
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: "Castlewood"

Location: On Big Hill Road, U. S. No. 25, four  
miles southeast of Richmond,  
Madison County, Kentucky

Owner or  
custodian: Mrs. James W. Caperton

Address: Richmond, Kentucky

Date built: 1825  
(approx)

Architect  
or builder: Gideon Shryock

Present  
condition: Excellent

Number of  
stories: Two stories and attic (unfinished);  
also basement.

Material used  
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.  
Exterior walls: Solid brick.  
Interior partitions: Brick and frame,  
plastered.  
Roof: Frame construction, covered with  
standing seam tin (recent).  
Floors: Wood, random width, yellow pine;  
basement: earth.

Description:  
architectural  
and historical "Castlewood" remains today practically  
as it was built. Very few changes have  
been made.

The plan and exterior are typical of the "Colonial  
Georgian" style in Kentucky, having a center hall flanked by  
rooms on each side, and with a smaller wing on either side.

The kitchen and servants' quarters are a separate  
structure close to, but detached from, the main house, a  
feature so typical of homes built in Kentucky in the early  
part of the nineteenth century.

The original log smoke house still stands and is in good condition.

Although the house is not occupied at ~~the~~ present, it was at one time magnificiently furnished; a cabinet-maker resident at "Castlewood" having fashioned most of the pieces from designs brought over from England.

Some of the finest interior hand-carved woodwork in Kentucky is to be found in "Castlewood". Each principal room is equipped with a fireplace, but no two mantels are alike, indicating the unusual skill of the craftsman who carved the graceful sun-bursts, leaves and other ornamentation.

The ceilings are unusually high, accentuated by the lack of cornice, the bare walls in each room being broken only by a wood chair rail a few feet above the floor.

"Castlewood" is located on a part of the original tract of 15,000 acres of land surveyed and owned by Capt. James Estill, a Revolutionary soldier, who came to Kentucky from Augusta County, Virginia (Collins Hist. of Ky. Vol. II, page 168), and was one of the most gallant figures in the pioneer history of the West.

Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. II, page 18, shows: "Estill Station, on Muddy creek, 3 miles south of Richmond, Madison County, settled by Capt. James Estill, before 1781". Same volume, page 475, states that Capt. James Estill was a member of the first court held in Kentucky, at Harrodsburg, January 16, 1781, having been appointed by the Governor of Virginia.

Capt. Estill was killed in a battle with the Wyandotte Indians, near the site of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, on March 19, 1782; this is historically known as the battle of Estill's Defeat. (Col. Hist. of Ky., Vol. II, page 634)

After the death of Capt. Estill, there was much litigation over the land in his possession, and it is said, was not settled for forty years afterwards, when his five children were given 8,500 acres. His son, James Estill, Jr., on his share of land inherited from his father, erected "Castlewood".

The estate has been in the possession of direct descendants of Capt. James Estill for four generations.

*G. M. Grimes*

*Revised 1936 H.C. Foreman*

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